

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 L-03 CIAE-00

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R 140237Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, KE

SUBJECT: SAUL CLAIM

REF: NAIROBI 9794

1. DEPTOFF WAS CALLED SEPT. 13 BY SYLVAN MARSHALL OF MARSHALL LEON WEILL AND MAHONY, WASHINGTON ATTORNEYS FOR SAUL. MARSHALL SAID HE DEPARTING SEPT. 17 FOR PARIS TO MEET WITH SAUL AND ARONSON TO DISCUSS STATE OF PLAY AND DECIDE NEXT STEPS. OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE, ACCORDING TO MARSHALL, WILL BE ARONSON'S JUDGMENT RE WILLINGNESS OF GOK TO ACCEPT (OR IMPROVE) OFFER ALONG LINES OF REFTEL. MARSHALL SAID HE MIGHT PROCEED TO NAIROBI AT APPROPRIATE JUNCTURE IF IT APPEARED OUTSIDE LAWYER WOULD HAVE GREATER FLEXIBILITY IN PRESENTING SAUL CASE TO GOK THAN ARONSON.

2. FYI: MARSHALL SEEMED TO BELIEVE THAT SUBSTANCE OF OFFER REPORTED REFTEL WAS MADE BY GOK TO ARONSON, AND DESCRIBED OFFER AS "NOT SATISFACTORY"(INSUFFICIENT INITIAL
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CASH PAYMENT) BUT POSSIBLY OPENING WAY TO RESOLUTION

OF PROBLEM. PARIS MEETING SHOULD ENABLE CLARIFICATION
OF POSSIBLE CONFUSION AMONG SAUL ATTORNEYS CONCERNING
CURRENT OFFER.

3. ALSO FYI: MARSHALL SUGGESTED THAT IF AGREEMENT
WERE EVENTUALLY REACHED BETWEEN SAUL AND GOK, AMBASSADOR
MARSHALL'S PRESENCE AT "SIGNING CEREMONY" (WHICH MARSHALL
BELIEVED MIGHT INVOLVE MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES)
WOULD ADD TO POLITICAL STRENGTH OF AGREEMENT. DEPTOFF
TOLD MARSHALL THIS WAS QUESTION WHICH ONLY AMBASSADOR
COULD DETERMINE IN LIGHT OF CIRCUMSTANCES AND NATURE OF
"SIGNING CEREMONY." END FYI.

4. MARSHALL PROMISED TO CONTACT DEPTOFF AGAIN ON HIS
RETURN FROM PARIS. WILL KEEP EMBASSY INFORMED. ROBINSON

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